

Message Text

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E.O.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO BITSIOS: "REALISTIC"
TERRITORIAL MAP FOR CYPRUS SETTLEMENT

REF: A) STATE 167247 B) ATHENS 6781 C) STATE 166402

1. DURING MY DISCUSION LAST NIGHT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
BITSIOS CONCERNING CYPRUS (EXDIS SEPTELS) I ENDEAVORED TO FIND
OUT HOW MUCH HE KNEW ABOUT CHRISTOFIDES JUNE 15 MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY---WITHOUT INDICATING THAT I KNEW VERY MUCH
ABOUT IT MYSELF. BITSIOS SEEMED TO BE ONLY PARTIALLY
INFORMED, ALTHOUGH I CANNOT RULE OUT THAT HE
WAS BEING SOMEWHAT CAGEY WITH ME.

2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A SPECIAL, PRIVATE "EYES
ONLY" MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOFIEDES WHICH HE THEN WENT TO
HIS PERSONAL FILES AND RETRIVED. BITSIOS REREAD THE
MESSAGE, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY AN ACCOUNT OF
CHRISTOFIDES' MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, AND THEN TOLD
ME THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO HIM.
HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS REPORT, A TOP SECRET,
UNSIGNED MEMO HAD BEEN HANDED TO CHRISTOFIDES BUT
THAT HE (BITSIOS) DID NOT HAVE A COPY OR THE TEXT OF
THAT MEMO NOR WAS HE AWARE OF ITS DETAILED CONTENTS.
APPARENTLY, HE SAID, IT DEALT WITH THE PREPARATION OF
A "REALISTIC MAP" PROPOSAL WHICH COULD BE THE BASIS
FOR A TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. I ASKED

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BITSIOS WHAT HIS VIEWS WERE OF SUCH AN APPROACH

AND HE SAID, "I CANNOT HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS--IT IS TOO DELICATE--TOO TRICKY." HE SAID THIS WAS A MATTER FOR MAKARIOS TO DECIDE, THAT HE AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED THEIR HAND REPEATEDLY TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT---WITH NO SUCCESS---AND HE WAS SURE THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD NOT WANT ATHENS TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF TERRITORIAL DELINEATIONS--THAT THIS WAS UP TO MAKARIOS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.

3. BITSIOS ADDED THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FURTHER ASSURANCES FROM MAKARIOS THAT HE CONTINUED TO STAND BY THE AGREEMENT REACHED LAST YEAR AND CONVEYED TO U.S. AND OTHER KEY ALLIED LEADERS THAT AN OVERALL ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING FOR A BIZONAL SETTLEMENT, WITH 25 PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY IN THE TURKISH ZONE AND WEAK CENTRAL POWERS CONTINUED TO BE ACCEPTABLE. MAKARIOS WAS, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, ASKING FOR A MORE ATTRACTIVE SETTLEMENT BUT THE FOREGOING REMAINED AN ACCEPTABLE BOTTOM LINE ARRANGEMENT FOR HIM. THIS ALSO SEEMED TO ATHENS TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SETTLEMENT, BITSIOS SAID, AND THEREFORE THE TALK ABOUT SOME KIND OF SPLIT BETWEEN CARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS WAS JUST THAT ---TALK. THERE WAS, IN FACT, NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM. INDEED, BITSIOS WENT ON, THE ONLY WAY HE COULD FORESEE A SPLIT BETWEEN MAKARIOS AND CARAMANLIS WOULD BE IF THE TURKISH SIDE AGREED TO A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE AND MAKARIOS BACKED DOWN AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT. IN THAT CASE, CARAMANLIS WOULD BREAK WITH MAKARIOS. HOWEVER, BITSIOS SAID, THIS WAS SO IMPROBABLE AS NOT TO BE WORTH TALKING ABOUT BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN NOT ONE SINGLE INDICATION THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WAS READY TO AGREE ON ANYTHING APPROACHING A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT.

THUS, HE SAID, RETURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE "REALISTIC MAP," THIS WAS A NEGOTIATING TACTIC AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TAKE ANY POSITION ON IT. THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY MAKARIOS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD GO SECRET

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ALONG WITH WHATEVER DECISION THEY MADE.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ANKARA AND NICOSIA AS DESIRED.
KUBISCH

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